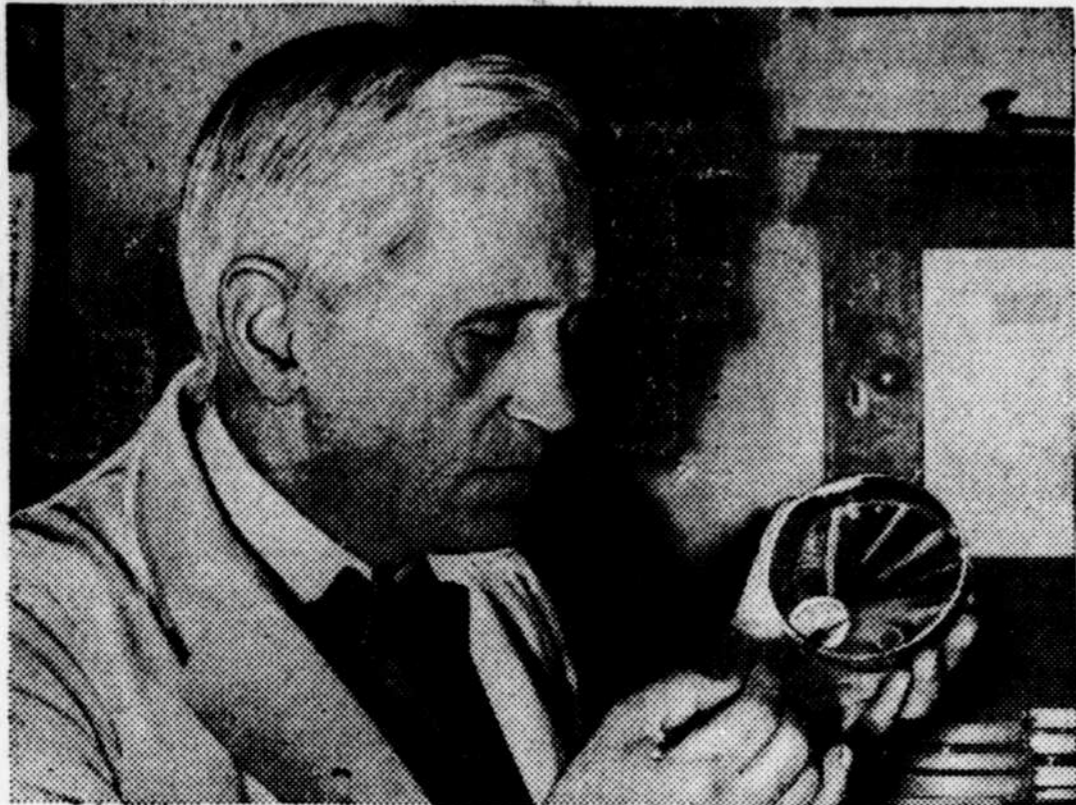


MEDICINE'S GOLDEN DECADE

Daring explorers of medical science are passing through a golden decade of discovery in healing. Hippocrates, the medical Columbus of his time, would be proud of his modern disciples, who cure the "incurable" with penicillin and sulfa drugs, conquer burns and shock with blood plasma, arrest cancer, dose whole armies with vaccines to ward off epidemics, or shock the mentally ill back toward health.



FLEMING: He found penicillin moldering in a mold.

By SCHUYLER ALLMAN
(AP) Features Writer

FIRST OF A SERIES

A hard-boiled community of germs trying to plant a colony on a culture plate in London's St. Mary's hospital fell on evil times. The germs did not multiply and overrun the plate with their usual arrogance.

So Dr. Alexander Fleming, London bacteriologist, went looking for the agent that was cutting down the staphylococci on the microscopic battlefield. He found it

lurking in a common mold that had strayed onto the plate.

Dr. Fleming filtered a liquid from the mold, called it penicillin, tried it on animals and modestly reported that it "may be an effective antiseptic." This was in 1929. But nothing happened for ten years.

Wild Bacteria Tamed

Then came war crying for antiseptics. Dr. Howard W. Florey and associates at the University of Oxford undertook further study of penicillin and in 1940 published a report that startled the medical world.

Converted into a brown powder, this penicillin had stopped certain streptococci and staphylococci dead in their tracks. Some of these wild bacteria never had been tamed before.

Few outside the armed services know penicillin's curative powers, for so well does it fight stubborn wound and other infections that they have first call on the limited supply.

Penicillin, unstable product of *Penicillium notatum*—a common mold found in fertile soil—is slow and painfully refined.

But in laboratories chemists toil to split it into its elements. If they succeed, penicillin then can be made synthetically and will be

available to all to fight many ancient destroyers of mankind.

Sulfanilamide also knocked about the laboratories unhonored for years. It was discovered in 1906, but it was not until 1932 that a curious German scientist, Dr. Gerhard Domagk, discovered that a dye containing the drug kept a cutthroat gang of streptococci germs from multiplying.

Here was a new approach to an old problem. Previously, scientists had been looking without much luck for something to kill germs in the blood stream. Sulfa didn't kill germs, but it did hold them in check so the body's natural defenses could handle them (also true of penicillin.)

Tentative reports on the drug

filtered from Germany late in 1934, Dr. Domagk reported in 1935 that it would cure strep infections, and research was after it in full cry when news spread that sulfa was saving women from lethal child bed fever in a London hospital.

The drug has been greatly refined since. Search for a sulfonamide that cures without bad after effects only recently produced sulfamethazine, one of the most promising of this great drug family.

It has been used successfully and with little toxic reaction in pneumonia, meningitis and gonorrhea. Another is sulfamerazine.

Doctors have written a remarkable record of saving wounded by applying powdered sulfas directly to wounds and administering the drugs internally.

Yet the sulfonamide surface has hardly been scratched, and many problems remain.

(Next: Sex Treatments for Cancer)

Hiram Johnson, 79, Dies In Washington

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6—(AP)—Senator Hiram W. Johnson, California, militant opponent of the League of Nations and the San Francisco Charter for United Nations, died today at seventy-nine.

The veteran Republican succumbed at the Naval Hospital to cerebral thrombosis after two and a half week's hospitalization.

Fisheries Commission Reviews Progress In Seattle

SEATTLE, Aug. 6—(AP)—The Pacific-Salmon Fisheries Commission here Thursday, Friday and Saturday will review the progress of the efforts to restore the red salmon run to northwest waters.

Surplus Gov't Buildings FOR SALE

The Alaskan Department, U. S. Army Is offering for sale certain surplus huts and frame buildings located in the Nome area.

The sale will be conducted on a negotiated cash basis with individual needs and requirements being first served.

The base price set on huts approximates \$200.00, while the portable frame-type structures will average 35 to 60 cents a sq. ft. of floor space. These figures are subject to reduction or increase dependent upon condition of buildings or amount of improvements and installed equipment.

The Real Estate Representative of the Alaskan Department is located at the M. P. Station on Front Street and will furnish all further details, forms and related information between the hours of 9 to 12 noon, 1 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., except on Sundays when hours will be 10 to 2.



DOMAGK: Sulfa Discoverer.

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